

## VOL. XIII.

## A TALE OF THE TYROL.

During one of my excursions through the remote valleys of the Northern Tyrot, I happened to make the acquaintance of a benevolent Catholie elergyman, who invited me to spend a few days at his hunchle but hospitable abode. Among other interesting details respecting the rural population of his neighborhood, he related the following circumstances connected with the history of one of his favorite parishioners. They appear to me not devoid of interest, and I shall give them as nearly as possible in his own words.

Observe, said he, pointing to a rustic dwelling which was visible from the window where we sat -observe that cottage nestled under the brow of the mountain, as if seeking protection from the fierce mountain blast. You see it is likewise sheitered by that grove of pine trees, and a few stanted birches, the only only ones to be seen for miles around. That is the habitation of Lewis Vostner; and that slender streamlet which now winds its way down the mountain side like a thread of silver, but which, when swelled by winter rains, becomes a raging torrent-that streamlet has proved of more value to the owner of the rude heritage than many a mine of gold has done to its possessor.

Nothing could look more unpromising, more desolate, than that spot did when first it came into Vostuer's possession. He did not, however, desnair. He had seen the effect produced by irrigation in other instances, and with unremitting labor he guided the precious waters through vanous channels, so as to reach and fertilize every portion of his little patrimony. He planted that grove, which, besides affording shade from the summer's heat, provides nourishment for the arid soil by the vegetable manure produced by its failen leaves. Thus, by unwearied industry, he converted a barren desert into a productive farm, where he lived in comfort, and was looked up to with respect and admiration by his poorer neighbors.

A little proud of his wealth, Vostner " as more proud of his only child Theresa, who grew up to womanhood with a more than usually graceful person, and a character of the most perfect gentleness, while her intellect was, from various causes, cultivated and refined to a degree uncommon in her rank of life. Her mother's health having declined in consequence of her exertions to assist her husband in his early difficulties, Theresa took upon herself the principal labors of the dairy. She had reached her seventcenth year without encountering anything to mar her happiness. At this time a suitor presented himself, in Basil Affland, the son of an affluent farmer, and Vostner favored his claim. He was surprised to find, however, that Theresa expressed great disinclination to the match, alleging that the wooer was a person whom she feit that she could never love. Vostner did not rest satisfied with this declaration, and at length wrung from her that her affections had been bestowed upon Sebastian Fredeitz, an indigent orphan youth, not, as she thought, from any of the usual causes of preference, but because she had observed his wellprincipled conduct towards those connected with him, and particularly his kindness to a helpless well to press a suit disagreeable to her. She, on her part, was content to hope that some happy turn of fortune might yet occur to reconcile her wishes and her duty. Matters remained in this state till the breaking out of our troubles in 1809. Au; those were dreadful times! I cannot bear to dilate upon them. Our peaceful valleys then became the scene of cruel warfare, our finest youths turned into soldiers, and all our rural labors suspended. Suddenly this retired district was threatened with an attack. Most of our young men already joined Hofer beyond the mountains, and it was determined to send an express to demand succor; but who could be found to undertake the perilous office, which demanded not only the greatest intrepidity, but a perfect knowledge of the mountain passes ?- for in that consisted the only chance ever on the watch for stragglers, and from whom little mercy was to be expected. It was late in the day before a suitable messenger could be procured. At length one presented himself, who all agreed was the best fitted for the purpose .---This person was Sebastian. Theresa and her home to avoid the risk of being surprised by the enemy in their lonely abode. She heard the lidings of Sebastian's daring enterprise with mixed feelings of pride at his patriotism and intrepudity, and terror at his danger. The latter very guarded in her behaviour towards her lover. He, poor youth, had never dared to declare openly his attachment ; but words were unnecessary when every look betrayed the fervor of his passion, and evident to the conscious Theresa. It was only enemy's forces; but I do not think you will rows.'

which might, too probably, be for ever-that the wise could I act ? long-repressed feelings of the youthful pair burst forth without control, and that, with touching words and more persuasive tears, she besonght him to guard well his life for the sake of all he loved.

The hope of proving himself worthy of obtaining the hand of Theresa, was, I believe, one of the prominent motives which induced Sebastian to court this dangerous service. It was agreed that, in case he succeeded, he should give us notice of it by lighting a signal fire upon the a fever, which soon increased to an alarining opposite mountain.

As inidnight approached, every eye was fixed with intense anxiety upon the appointed spot ;-but minutes-hours passed away, and no welcome signal greeted our eyes. Poor Theresa kept her post except for a few minutes to comfort Sebastian's old grandmother, who was too feeble to bear the fatigue of sitting up. Vain were our watchings No light appeared.

Sebastian having evidently failed in accoinplishing his mission, we passed the following day under the most dreadful apprehension. Evening, however, brought the welcome intelligence that the enemy, from some unknown cause, had reim- called upon her to remember the duty she owed quished their intention of attacking our village, and had passed over on the other side.

Though no tidings of Sebastian's late had yet reached us, little doubt of its nature existed in she suffered to listen to and act upon such admothe minds of any. Theresa, though profoundly initions; but Theresa was always actuated by afflicted, was calm and resigned. At length, high principle ; she endeavored to calm her mind some of the youths who had been out on military and in a little time she appeared to have in some service returned, and amongst them Basil Affland. His first visit was to my house, where she and her family were collected. I was struck with a certain air of suppressed triumph in his appearance, as fixing his eyes upon her as she sat at her work, pale and silent, he began in a voice of condolence to declare that he was sorry-that it grieved hun to the soul to be the bearer of such intelligence to the friends of Sebastian.

At the sound of that name, the poor girl, starting from her state of abstraction, exclaimed, It is all over, then, and he is murdered.'

Basil looked at her for a moment with an expression of malicious satisfaction in his countenance, and then replied, 'There is no occasion for this alarm about his life, Theresa. He is safe enough. He was too wise to risk that precious life for our sakes. He has, on the contrary, obtained promotion; he has been made a leader of the Bavarian troops-their guide, at least.?

" And do you suppose this tale will obtain cre-

## MONTREAL, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1863.

' Your ever faithful, SEBASTIAN FREILEITZ.' It was with deep concern I found myself com-pelled to believe Sebastian a traitor; but I had

then no time to give to my own regrets. Theresa was carried to her bed, where she lay so still that, but for the deep-drawn sighs that at times burst from her burdened heart, she might been thought to be in a trance. From this state she was roused about midnight by the coming on of height. During the delirium produced by her disease, the name of the unfortunate Sebastian was ever on her lips; sometimes accompanied by words of reproach for his baseness, sometimes by expressions of resentment against those she termed his calumniators. At length the fever left her, feeble indeed, but perfectly clear in mind. and sensible of the full extent of her calamity .---1 endeavored to turn her thoughts in such a direction as I thought would lead to resignation. I pointed out how fortunate she might rather consider herself in having escaped allying herself with a person destitute of principle. I also to her parents, and to look forward to a time when she should have in a great measure forgotten this blow. It is not easy for one suffering as degree recovered from her affliction.

She became more than ever remarkable for her activity. As the family were still afraid to return to their lonely dwelling, they remained at the house of a distant relation of her father, a wealthy person, according to Tyrolese notions of wealth. Raymond Landsberg had been left a widower in the prime of life. He was highly respected for the excellence of his character, he possessed a warm heart and a delicacy of feeling seldom found among those of his station. Compassion was the first sentiment that Theresa awakened in his breast; but compassion towards a young and lovely female often leads to still more tender feelings, and so it was with Raymond. The object of his attachment, however, was too much absorbed in her own sorrows to discover in his behaviour anything beyond the kindness of a relation. For this kindness she was sincerely grateful, and endeavored to repay it by unremitting attention to his household con-

. So girls always think when disappointed in promise to be mine at a future day; till that love ; but I never yet knew a reasonable mind happy time comes, your father will remain with that was unable to subdue an ill-placed attach- me, and I will manage his affairs as it I were alment.'

'I have subdued it, father-1 no longer love she spoke ; but my heart seems turned to stone. I cannot love as a husband ought to be loved .---So conviaced am I of this, that I have formed a reject my sacrifice."

'These are vain romantic fancies, my dear parents. child,' said I, 'of which your reason truly told you I should disapprove. Each one has his duty to perform in life ; yours is clearly pointed outit is to contribute in every way in your power to. the happiness of your parents. To see you happily and respectably married has long been their fondest hope, which to relinquish would be a severe trial. Meantime, you need fear no importunity from Raymond. All that he asks is, that you make no irrevocable determination against հմտ.'

The restraint which the knowledge of Raymond's sentiments produced upon the mind of his cousin soon yielded before the delicate respect to her feelings, which always governed his behaviour towards her. In any difficulty it was to him site had recourse for advice-in any affliction she was sure of his ready sympathy : and she, on her part, felt happy to testify her gratitude by increased attention to his domestic concerns.

A few months having thus passed away, and our country having been delivered into the hands of the conquerors, warfare had consequently ceased, and Vostner announced his intention of returning to his home, and endeavoring by renewed industry to repair the injuries which his little patrimony had sustained during the unavoidable intermission of his fostering care. As he announced his intention, he sighed deeply, for he felt that time had impaired his vigor, and that he was no longer able for the exertions which had proved so successful in early life.

Raymond strenuously opposed his design, urging him to defer his departure till the spring should be farther advanced, and offering every assistance in his power to afford ; but Vostner was inflexible. His pride suffered under the sense of obligation which he had been compelled to submit to; and finding that there appeared no probability of the secret object of his wisheshis daughter's marriage with her cousin-being realized, he could no longer endure to be a burden to his kind relative. When every effort to shake his resolution had been used in vam, Raymond, after fixing his eyes upon Theresa for some moments with a look of earnest melancholy, slowly rose and left the room. Full well did she understand that silent appeal. Late on the evening of that day, she presented herself at the door of my sitting-room. 'How is this, dear child ?' said I, observing that her eyes were swelled with weeping; ' has any new evil occurred ?' 'None, sir, only that my lather says he will remain no longer here. He will return to his old comfortless dwelling, even before the weather has become warm; and I fear he is not fit to brave the season, nor equal to the labor he must his generosity. Theresa warmly concurred in audergo. Raymond entreated hun to stay, and promised, if he did, to assist him in his labors .---Then Raymond looked at me so, and 1 felt, fasense of his kindness, but that, she feared, would ther,' said she, trembling with emotion, 'I felt as if I were-

ready his son."

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Vostner's joy at this event may easily be imathat unfortunate,' said she, her lip quivering as gined. It was arranged that the marriage should take place early in the ensuing summer, and There's appeared to look forward to it with less and less reluctance every day. Her manner, resolution which I feared to tell you of, lest you though more serious thru is u-ual at her age, was should disapprove of it; I wish to devote my calm, sometimes even cheerful, and her regard heart to God, and I feel that Heaven will not for her cousm seemed to increase as she marked his unremitting attention to the welfare of her

While matters in this promising state, it chanced that Theresa, who had goue to visit a friend residing at some distance mongst the mountains, was detained to a late hour by the importunities of her young companion, and the shades of mght were closing round her before half her journey was completed. As peace was now restored, this circumstance gave her no concorn, for our mountain maidens are accustomed to traverse these wilds late and early without sense of danger. She was leasurely pursuing her way, her eyes cast down, her thoughts in that state of abstraction now become almost habitual to her, when her attention was awakened by a rusting sound amongst the low brushwood that skirted her path. She turned her eyes in the direction whence the sound proceeded, and meheld a figure emerging from the shade, which with hasty yet continue step approached. When near enough to be closely discerned, she, to ner suspeakable dismay, recognised, pale and entry caled, the countenance of the unfortunate Sebastian. While she remained transfixed to the spet with terror, mable to give utherance to the cry that quivered on her fips, he advanced, and, in tremblag accents, pronounced her name, extending his hand as if in the act to detain her; but, alarmed by the sound of approaching voices, he reliagnshed his purpose, and hastily concealed himself amongst the weeds and brushwood. The party by whom he had been alarmed now appeared in sight. It consisted of a number of young persons from the village, who were gaily carolling their mountain airs. Along with them had come Baymoud, in the hope of meeting Theresa; her appearance and attitude struck them with consternation. There she stood, with hands up litted, and eyes fixed and onlated, as it gazing on some terrific vision.

Raymond, almost distracted at the sight, enavoured by every soothing expression to recall Theresa's wandering senses. Roused by his voice, her form relaxed from its minatural rigidity her eyes recovered their would expression, and she sank down exhausted on the bank ; he seated himself by her, and holding her brand in his, gazed upon her still agitated countenance with intense anxiety. At length she looked up, and, faintly similing, returned the pressure of his hand. Her young fliends now, with instinctive delicacy. withdrew to a little distance, leaving her to explain to her cousin in private, the cause of the strange state in which they had found her. "I have seen him !"

dit here?' said Theresa, looking at him with sovereign contempt. 'Sebastian a guide to the enemy's forces ! Schastian a traitor ! Would I could think your assurance of his being alive less false than all the rest of your story !

Basil's face became flushed with anger.

a liar nor a slanderer.'

utmost consternation-all except Theresa. She | willing compliance. It was with pleasure that 1 calmly said-

cannot possibly believe. Surely no man can ere long awaken attachment in the object of his doubt that Sebastian would die a thousand deaths choice. rather than commit such an action."

I hoped she was right, but having seen more of the same confidence in human virtue.

Late in the evening Basil returned, accompanied by two of the principal inhabitants of the never be in her power. district. Deliberately seating himself, he re-mained some minutes silent. There was again that look of suppressed triumph that I had ob-that look of suppressed triumph that I had observed in the morning.

'I am,' said he, affecting an air of sympathy as towards my country obliged me to deliver this and alarm at me, but did not speak. paper into the hands of the public authorities before I made it known hands of the public authomorning.'

Thus saying, he presented her with a letter, hu-band." the seal of which had been broken. She eagerly perused the contents, then started up wildly, nance. clasped her hands together, and rushed out of the room. Her mother and I followed in the words. parents were then at our village, having left their | greatest alarm. We found her lying on the floor of the adjoining apartment in a fainting fit. Our efforts to restore her were for some minutes vain; in Sebastian's hand, and ran thus :-

Dear Theresa - I cannot let the message go when the moment of parting came-that parting' blame me under the circumstances. How other-

cerns.

Consideration for her recent disappointment for some time prevented the avowal of his sentiments; but when he perceived that her countenance, though still sad, had recovered somewhat of its natural placid expression, he ventured to "I see,' said he, ' that it is aseless for me to disclose his wishes to me. This he did in prespeak to those who are determined not to believe ; ference to speaking to her parents, who might, before night, however, I may be able to prove the feared, attempt to exercise an authority over beyond the possibility of doubt that I am neither her which would be equally distressing to his feel-

ings as a friend and as a lover; for his affection So saying he departed, leaving us all in the was not of a nature to be satisfied with an unundertook to plead his cause, well assured that "It is his malice only. He repeats what he his sterling worth and unwearied kindness must

1 opened the business by an encommum upon life than the innocent Theresa, I could not place this praise, and declared that it would give her the highest gratification to be able to show her

'You can, Theresa,' said I, ' show your sense of his kindness effectually, and at the same time whom you owe so much."

At these words the truth scened to flash he addressed Theresa-' I am sorry that my duty across her mind. She cast a look of surprise give up my own wishes for my dear parents'

'I suspect you guess my meaning,' said I, ' you know that Raymond has been like a son to your rities before I made it known to you. When parents-make him such in reality ; you will thus you have read it, you will, perhaps, be less ready insure the comfort of their old age, and at the of escape from the Bavarian troops, who were to accuse me of calumny than you were this same time obtain for yourself one of Heaven's pect. choicest blessings-a pious, virtuous, and tender

A deadly paleness overspread her counte-

"Does my father know of this ?" were her first

. No ; Raymond was too considerate to mention it to him without your sanction.'

Bless him for that, along with all his other at length she sighed heavily, opened her eyes, kindness. How should I have been able to bear and looked round with a bewildered air. I then my father's reproaches for denying him such a took up the fatal paper which had caused her de- son? Yet deny him I must; I cannot give a choice.' feeling, however, prevailed. She had hitherto, spair. Alas ! when I had read it, I could no poor heart-broken creature, unfit to be the wife in accordance with a promise to her father, been longer wonder at the poor girl's agony. It was of any man, to my generous cousin ; that would be a bad return for all he has done for us.'

But he wishes it, Theresa; your depression without one line from my band to your dear self. of spirits does not discourage him. Nor will You will no doubt feel surprised that I should your heart always continue dead to happiness ;the very restraint he put upon it rendered it more have been induced to become a guide to the time and reason will efface all traces of past sor- blessing of such a son. All I ask is a little time

'No, tather, no; I feel that it can never be.'

'As if you were the cause of your father's inflexibility ; was it not so, my dear ?"

"If I thought I should really be doing right, sir-if I thought 1 could make Raymond happy -why, then, I think I could-f think I wouldsake.'

"Whether you would be doing right or not depends upon whether you feel that you can bestow upon Raymond that degree of affection, that preference, that a husband has a right to ex-

'Next to my parents, sir, none is so dear to me. He has obtained my honest, perfect esteem, my warmest gratitude ; and yet I fear-I fear I cannot love hun as he loves me-as once 1-"

'Nor is it necessary you should, Theresa. The species of attachment you allude to originates more in the imagination than the heart, and seldom survives the first months of married life. But there is another kind, founded on esteem and gratitude, which will increase with the proofs you receive of the worth of the object of your

Emboldened by my counsel, Raymond ventured to solicit Theresa's permission to apply to her father for his consent to their marriage.

'Dear Raymond,' said she, 'since it is your wish to take such a poor faded creature to be tian. your wife, 1 shall not deprive my parents of the to make myself more worthy of you.'

. Hum !- whom have you seen ? said Ray-

mond.

"The lost the guilty----"

"Sebastion P said Raymond, starting. "Impossible ! Recollect yourself, dear Theress."

"I saw him as plainly as I now see you. He spoke-he pronounced my name; then, scared by your voices, he disappeared amongst the brushwood youder. Now, Raymond, if the unfortunate Theresa was ever dear to you, save hun. Let him not die the death he deservesthe traitor's death. Oh, spare me that agony !? said she, throwing herself at his feet.

"Theresa,' said he, raising and pressing her to his bosom, ' do you know your poor Raymond so little as to believe this sumplication necessary ?---Let this dear throbbing heart have rest, and tell me what I can do to comfort you."

'Seek him out, and tell him----'

• What P.

"To fly-to save himself-and never, never to attempt to see me more."

'I will-I will indeed ; but I fear he will shun me as his bitter enemy. And yet I am not-Heaven knows I am not. To have lost you is punishment enough for all his crimes. But strive to control your feelings, Theresa, otherwise suspicions may be awakened which may be fatal to bim."

This suggestion produced an immediate effect. Theresa, with prodigious effort, recovered her self-possession; her companions were recalled, and her sudden indisposition having been attributed to some painful recollections connected with that spot, the party regained their home. when Raymond, at parting, whispered that he was going to retrace his steps in quest of Sebas-

Theresa passed the night without sleep .-Dreadful visions of vengeance and of blood floated before her terrified imagination. She 'Yes, Theresa,' said he, 'all I demand is your | rose early, and endeavoured to busy herself about